

By: Representative Espy

To: Apportionment and  
Elections

HOUSE BILL NO. 955

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 23-15-37, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
 2 TO ENHANCE OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLEGE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO  
 3 REGISTER TO VOTE; TO REQUIRE THE REGISTRAR OF EACH COUNTY TO VISIT  
 4 EACH PUBLIC OR PRIVATE HIGH SCHOOL, UNIVERSITY, OR COMMUNITY OR  
 5 JUNIOR COLLEGE IN THE COUNTY, FOR THE PURPOSE OF REGISTERING TO  
 6 VOTE ANY PERSON WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE IN THE COUNTY, REQUIRE  
 7 THAT THE REGISTRAR OF EACH PUBLIC OR PRIVATE UNIVERSITY OR  
 8 COMMUNITY OR JUNIOR COLLEGE INCLUDE A MAIL-IN APPLICATION TO  
 9 REGISTER TO VOTE IN THE MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED TO STUDENTS AT THE  
 10 TIME THAT THEY REGISTER TO ATTEND THE INSTITUTION OR COLLEGE; AND  
 11 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

13 SECTION 1. Section 23-15-37, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
 14 amended as follows:

15 23-15-37. (1) The registrar shall keep his books open at  
 16 his office and shall register the electors of his county at any  
 17 time during regular office hours.

18 (2) The registrar may keep his office open for registration  
 19 of voters from 8:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m., including the noon hour,  
 20 for the five (5) business days immediately preceding the thirtieth  
 21 day prior to any regularly scheduled primary or general election.  
 22 The registrar may also keep his office open from 8:00 a.m. until  
 23 12:00 noon on the Saturday immediately preceding the thirtieth day  
 24 prior to any regularly scheduled primary or general election.

25 (3) The registrar, or any deputy registrar duly appointed by  
 26 law, may visit and spend such time as he may deem necessary at any  
 27 location in his county, selected by the registrar not less than  
 28 thirty (30) days before an election, for the purpose of  
 29 registering voters.

30 (4) A person who is physically disabled and unable to visit  
31 the office of the registrar to register to vote due to such  
32 disability may contact the registrar and request that the  
33 registrar or his deputy visit him for the purpose of registering  
34 such person to vote. The registrar or his deputy shall visit such  
35 person as soon as possible after such request and provide such  
36 person with an application for registration, if necessary. The  
37 completed application for registration shall be executed in the  
38 presence of the registrar or his deputy.

39 (5) The registrar of each county shall visit each public and  
40 private high school in the county at least twice during each  
41 calendar year for the purpose of registering to vote any person  
42 who is eligible to vote in the county. The registrar shall visit  
43 each public or private institution of higher learning and each  
44 community or junior college at least twice during each calendar  
45 year, which visits shall coincide with that institution's or  
46 college's dates of registering students to attend the institution  
47 or college, for the purpose of registering to vote any person who  
48 is eligible to vote in the county. The registrar shall provide to  
49 each public or private institution of higher learning and each  
50 community or junior college a sufficient number of mail-in  
51 applications to register to vote, so that a mail-in application  
52 may be included in the materials distributed to students at the  
53 time that they register to attend the institution or college.

54 SECTION 2. The registrar of each public or private  
55 institution of higher learning and of each community or junior  
56 college shall include a mail-in application to register to vote in  
57 any materials distributed to students at the time that they  
58 register to attend the institution or college.

59 SECTION 3. The Attorney General of the State of Mississippi  
60 shall submit this act, immediately upon approval by the Governor,  
61 or upon approval by the Legislature subsequent to a veto, to the  
62 Attorney General of the United States or to the United States

63 District Court for the District of Columbia in accordance with the  
64 provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended and  
65 extended.

66 SECTION 4. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
67 and after the date it is effectuated under Section 5 of the Voting  
68 Rights Act of 1965, as amended and extended.